

REMARKS

By the present amendments, claim 2 has been canceled and claims 3 and 4 have been amended to recite "porous cellulose carrier." Support for the amendments is found in the application, in particular on page 10, lines 10-24.

Claims 3-4 are pending in the present application. The claims are directed to a method for removing a TGF- β .

In the Office Action, claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over either of US 4774322 (Seyedin et al.), US 4931548 (Lucas) or US 5322933 (Davies), in view of US 6270994 (Miyazono).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that none of the cited references disclose the use of a porous cellulose carrier together with a compound immobilized on said carrier and having a log P value of at least 2.50 to contact a body fluid. An advantage of this feature of the present invention is that a hydrophilic carrier is combined with a hydrophobic compound to improve adsorption of TGF- β . This feature and its advantages is not taught or suggested in any of the cited references. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

Serial Number: 09/773,598

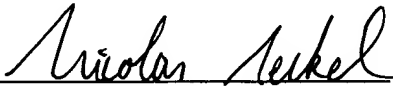
Group Art Unit: 1646

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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NES:rep
Encls.: Petition for One-Month Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination